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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK04//

TO GOMPERT FOR THE SECRETARY

SECRET SENSITIVE VIA BLACK PATCH WH50275

State Dept. review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

MARCH 2, 1975

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: SUNDAY CABLE SUMMARY

PERUVIAN PRESIDENT ILL?; DEFENSE RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO SUFFERED A STROKE ON FEBRUARY 28. HE IS REPORTEDLY PARTIALLY PARALIZED BUT RECOVERING. EMBASSY LIMA INDICATES PRIME MINISTER MORALES AND CHIEF ADVISOR GRAHAM, WHO WOULD BE THE TWO MOST LIKELY SUCCESSORS, ARE AWARE OF THE SITUATION. IN FACT, THE FORMER IS SAID TO HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED PLEDGES OF SUPPORT FROM TWO MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS INCLUDING LIMA. THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT IF VELASCO IS INCAPACITATED OR DIES, MORALES WILL HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY TO KEEP GRAHAM OR OTHERS FROM PRE-EMPTING AN ATTEMPT AT CONSOLIDATING CONTROL. THIS WILL BE MORE IMPERATIVE IF RUMORS OF THE ILLNESS, TRUE OR NOT, BECOME WIDESPREAD. THEY ARE NOT NOW COMMON PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

IRMAK ASKED TO FORM NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT: TURKISH PRESIDENT KORUTURK HAS ASKED PRIME MINISTER IRMAK, WHO HAS HEADED THE CARETAKER CABINET, TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT. KORUTURK HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO BREAK THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK, WHICH HAS KEPT THE COUNTRY UNDER INTERIM RULE FOR MORE THAN FIVE MONTHS, BECAUSE OF SPREADING CIVIL DISTURBANCES PARTICULARLY IN THE COUNTRY'S EASTERN PROVINCES. IRMAK WAS UNSUCCESSFUL EARLIER WHEN HE TRIED TO FORM A COALITION.

IF HE IS ABLE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT THIS TIME, IT WILL ONLY BE A TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT UNTIL THE

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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PARTIES AGREE ON WHEN TO HOLD A NEW ELECTION. THE JUSTICE PARTY HAS OBJECTED TO THE PROPOSAL, CONTENDING THAT SUCH A GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORCED, UNDEMOCRATIC AND LACKING A MAJORITY WITH PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

PEKING TREATMENT OF TAIWAN UPRISING ANNIVERSARY [REDACTED] 25X1
NOTES THAT SPEECHES CELEBRATING THE TAIWANESE UPRISING OF 1947 OMITTED REFERENCES TO THE POSSIBILITY OF UNIFICATION WITH THE MAINLAND BY MILITARY MEANS THAT WERE PROMINENTLY FEATURED BY PEKING LAST YEAR. THE INEVITABILITY OF UNIFICATION WAS, OF COURSE, STRESSED. THE EMPHASIS THIS YEAR WAS ON ENCOURAGING TAIWANESE TO BYPASS THE GOVERNMENT IN TAIPEI AND TO ASSOCIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE MAINLAND. THE USUALLY HIGH-LEVEL TURNOUT FOR THE CELEBRATION WAS HEADED BY DEFENSE MINISTER YEH CHIEN-YING, A CIVILIAN, HOWEVER, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER LIAO CHENG-CHIH, AS USUAL GAVE THE MAJOR SPEECH.

PHILIPPINE FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES: PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED SATURDAY A SERIES OF NATIONAL POLICY PLANS INCLUDING A VISIT TO PEKING FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA WITHIN THE YEAR, POSSIBLY IN APRIL OR SO. HE MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN A NATIONALLY-TELEvised NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER RECEIVING WHAT HE TERMED AS AN "APPARENTLY OVERWHELMING MANDATE" IN REFERENDUM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. MARCOS DID NOT SPELL OUT THE TERMS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PEKING, BUT POINTED OUT THE CHINESE HAD ALWAYS ASKED NATIONS DESIRING RELATIONS WITH PEKING TO CUT OFF TIES WITH THE NATIONALISTS. MARCOS SAID AT THE SAME TIME THE PHILIPPINES WILL STRENGTHEN TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND MOVE AFTERWARD TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH MOSCOW AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING NORTH KOREA.

PHNOM PENH ROCKETED: FIVE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND TEN WOUNDED THIS MORNING WHEN INSURGENT GUNNERS FIRED THREE ROCKETS INTO A FLOWER MARKET IN CENTRAL PHNOM PENH. SEVEN ADDITIONAL ROCKETS STRUCK POCHENTONG AIRPORT, KILLING ANOTHER PERSON AND WOUNDING THREE.

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